



## Press Clipping Article

**Title:** Officials promote biotech industry

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Economic development officials and biotechnology industry players are in Boston this week promoting Owensboro as a centerpiece in the plant-based pharmaceutical field.

### Article:

Grant to OCTC hopefully will help produce a highly-skilled work force to aid development

Economic development officials and biotechnology industry players are in Boston this week promoting Owensboro as a centerpiece in the plant-based pharmaceutical field.

The development of a life sciences strategic plan last year and the partnership announced this spring in the development of a tobacco-based cancer drug have given the area more to offer at the BIO International Convention, which runs through Wednesday.

"What we've got in place this year is a really strong partnership between a number of groups," Nick Brake, president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp., said in a telephone interview from Boston.

The conference, sponsored by Biotechnology Industry Organization, brings together more than 20,000 attendees from more than 60 countries who represent a "who's who" of the biotechnology industry and investors, Brake said.

Joining Brake at the conference this year are Hugh Haydon, chairman of Kentucky BioProcessing LLC, and Jeff Barber, president and CEO of Owensboro Medical Health System, which are partnering with the University of Louisville on a project in the hospital's Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center announced earlier this year.

Researchers are using lab space at the center to work in part on using tobacco plants to develop a less expensive way to generate a cervical cancer vaccine developed last year by the University of Louisville.

The success of Kentucky BioProcessing and the new partnership at the cancer center are helping build Owensboro's reputation in the state and nationwide as a leader in plant-based pharmaceuticals, Brake said.

Already, Kentucky BioProcessing has provided its facilities and staff at its Airpark Drive

plant some of the infrastructure needed to continue the area's development as a biotech center.

An \$825,000 grant to Owensboro Community & Technical College announced last year will hopefully help build a highly-skilled biotechnology work force to support industry development, Brake said.

But with everything Owensboro has going for it in the biotechnology field, Brake said the area still needs to encourage investors to commit to biotechnology industry companies and encourage the development of laboratory space.

"As this cluster grows, we hope the work force grows," Brake said.

During this week's conference, Brake said he will be focusing on meeting with other companies in the plant-based pharmaceutical trade as well as communicating with state officials at the conference about the resources available in Owensboro.

"We want the folks in Frankfort ... to understand we are very much a major player in this industry in the state," Brake said.

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